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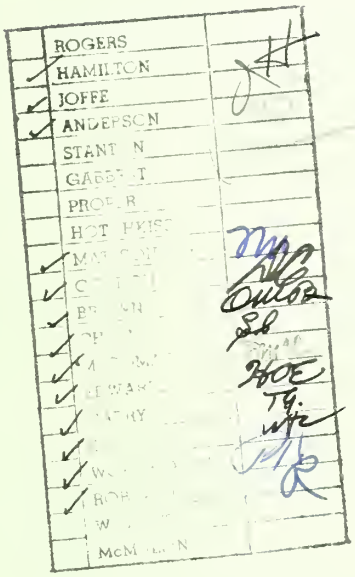
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 207-02.3

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 1953



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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Summary of the October 1953 Monthly Narrative Report
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER:	Continued dry. First snow 2nd. Fire danger quite high; 1 fire. Red Lodge & Dunraven roads closed.	1
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Rogers to Jackson & Bozeman. Hamilton, Wohlbrandt, Mattson back from Zion Conference. Mattson trips to Teton. Anderson & Proper to Chief Clerks Conf. Hart, F. Anderson, Nelson, Hotchkiss to NPS Training. Miller to Illinois for truck. Robinson, Brown, Edwards to Pueblo for oversnow equipment. Mail requires postage. Absaroka Cons. Comm. meeting. C. E. exam. Supplemental wage schedules. 2nd 25% rental increase.	1-2
INSPECTIONS:	Official visitors listed.	2-3
PUBLICITY:	AP phoned death George Anderson. [illegible],000 broadsides on hand.	3
PLANS, MAPS AND SURVEYS:	Wohlbrandt & Mattson at conf. part month; Asst. Engineers on construction projects. Paul Miller & Montgomery in. Proposed West Entrance widening reviewed, studies on West Entrance Station, proposed Inspiration Point platform reviewed.	3-4
MAINTENANCE:	Weather good; labor short. Work underway including some snowplowing.	4
CONSTRUCTION:	Progress on 4 contractor jobs at Canyon. Other construction listed.	4-5
COMPLAINTS:	Four complaint letters.	5
CONCESSIONERS:	Y.P.Co. offices moved. Final closing dates. Concessioner officials depart. Concessioner construction.	5-6
RELIGIOUS SERVICES:	Sunday School. Chapel to be used alternately with Gardiner for church.	6
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	Condon gave talk to Absaroka group and talk and movie to Bozeman Garden Club.	6
MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITS:	New museum storage cases. Field exhibits closed up.	6

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RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:	People in on history, elk, duck nesting, etc. research. Swan injured & died. Fewer bison seen. 2 coyotes begging on road. Great Fountain timed. Black Dragon changes. Starlings seen.	6-8
NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION:	Mrs. Quist clerk. Annual meeting & election YLMA. Nature Notes	8
IN-SERVICE TRAINING:	Weekly News.	8
TRAVEL:	31,049 visitors, slightly below last Oct. N. E. road closed. Hamilton Store accommodations to 30th.	8
SPECIAL VISITORS:	Cong. D'Ewart, Dr. Norton, photographer, and Near East Leader Training Tour.	8-9
RANGER SERVICE:	Various activities.	9
WILDLIFE: RANGE:	Range free of snow; forage dry. Kittams' observations. Study plot work, photos, range report.	9
ELK REDUCTION:	Requests for carcasses shipped but none by truck.	9
BUFFALO:	Request for 42 carcasses in reduction.	9
BEARS:	1 bear injury, 2 dead bears. For season 63 damages, 42 injuries & 20 dead bears.	10
FISH:	Fishing season closed 15th.	10
FOREST FIRES:	1 fire; 81 for season.	10
TRAILS:	Inspection trails Heart Lake-Snake River area.	10
SIGNS:	Preparations for sign making. To purchase some equipment.	10
WOOD UTILIZATION:	170 cords fire wood cut.	10
BLISTER RUST:	Dunraven display removed. Buildings braced and sleeping bags cleaned.	10
RANCH OPERATIONS:	Plowing to seed. Hay & grain distributed. Horses moved to Lamar, etc.	10
ACCIDENTS:	7 vehicle accidents. Death of George Anderson by falling tree.	11
LAW ENFORCEMENT:	3 cases tried. FBI captured youths in Utah suspected of theft here last June. FBI men in. Bruce Krebs, Navy deserter, arrested, escaped & retaken. Judge Hackett, Rocky Mtn. Commissioner, in re handling of fines, etc.	11

		Page
MARRIAGES:	John Rohn and Mary Blanchard married.	11
DEATHS:	Ned Burns, Chief, Museum Branch, NPS; I. W. Choate, father of Mrs. Garry; Mrs. Delia Hopkins, mother of Mrs. Tracy; and Geo. Anderson, Kiewit employee, victim of falling tree.	11-12
PERSONNEL:	Clerk-Steno. in lieu Clerk. Indefinite promotions some employees made permanent. Carl Gruener transferred to F. & W. Service. Merle Stitt, Ranger, transferred from Teton. Alice Murphy temp. appt. Clerk-Steno GS-4 extended, terminated; appointed GS-3. Bessie Schmitt indef. appt. Clerk-Steno GS-4. Geo. Tracy, seasonal F.C.A. (Dispatcher), terminated.	12
MISCELLANEOUS:	N.F.F.E. meeting. Mammoth Library annual meeting and election.	13

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

November 5, 1953

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for October 1953

Weather Conditions. Continued dry weather conditions prevailed throughout the month with only 0.17 inch of precipitation being recorded at this station. The first snow of the winter season fell on the 2nd. The maximum temperature of 76° was recorded on October 8 and a minimum reading of 14° on October 23.

Although fire danger was relatively high only one fire occurred during the month requiring a small crew for suppression.

The Red Lodge-Cooke Highway was closed to travel for the season by snow conditions on October 21. On October 24 the higher passes were closed approximately 24 hours by a 2" - 12" snowfall, but all park roads were open to travel at the end of the month with the exception of Dunraven Pass which remained closed after the 24th.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers departed for Jackson, Wyoming, October 15 to attend the Wyoming Motor-Court Association meeting October 15-17, returning the 18th. He made trips to the Bozeman library October 14, 20 and 29 on research work in connection with his legislative history project.

Assistant Superintendent Hamilton and Park Engineer Wohlbrandt returned October 9 and Resident Landscape Architect Mattson the following day from Zion National Park where they had attended the Design and Construction Conference.

Mr. Mattson also made trips to Teton October 15-16, 18, 20-21, and 29-30.

Administrative Officer Anderson and Personnel Assistant Proper, with Chief Clerk Bussey of Glacier, left October 13 to attend the Chief Clerks Conference at Omaha October 19-24, returning the 27th. They visited Denver and Rocky Mountain National Park en route to Omaha to discuss matters affecting Yellowstone.

District Park Rangers Frank Anderson, Ruben Hart and Dan Nelson and Payroll Supervisor Warren Hotchkiss left October 16 for Omaha to attend the 12th National Park Service Administration Training Course October 19-30, expecting to return the first of November.

Shop Foreman Miller departed by train October 21 for Arthur, Illinois, to pick up and drive back a new International tank truck, returning the 30th.

Mechanical Supervisor Robinson, Chief Ranger Brown and Assistant Chief Ranger Edwards left October 30 for Pueblo, Colorado, to pick up over-snow equipment for use in connection with elk and buffalo reduction in the park. They expect to return about November 4.

Effective October 1, all Government mail was required to carry postage in accordance with Public Law 286 approved August 15, 1953, which amended the Penalty Mail Act and removed the free franking privilege for Government agencies. Postage for the first month of operation amounted to $81.55.

The fall meeting of the Absaroka Conservation Committee was held in the park October 4 with Chairman Wesley A. D'Ewart and Vice-Chairman Stanton J. Ware presiding. The officers of the previous year were reelected, as follows: Congressman Wesley A. D'Ewart, Chairman; Stanton J. Ware, First Vice-Chairman; Robert A. Hamilton, Second Vice-Chairman; and George H. Kern, Secretary.

The Local Civil Service Board held an examination for Stenographer-Typist, GS-1-4 on October 7. Payroll Supervisor Hotchkiss conducted the examination and there was one competitor.

The new Operation and Maintenance Wage Schedule No. 9-53-A and Construction Schedule No. 4-53-A approved September 30 (supplementing O&M Schedule No. 9-53 and Construction No. 4-53 effective August 16) for ungraded employees of the National Park Service in Yellowstone National Park, became effective October 11.

Beginning with the pay period October 11-24 the quarters rentals were increased an additional 25% bringing the present rentals to 50% over the original charge prior to July 5, 1953.

Inspections. Dr. Oliver B. Cope, Chief, Rocky Mountain Investigations, Fish and Wildlife Service, Logan, Utah, and crew, who have been in the park since May 2 on fishery investigations, departed October 1. Howard W. Baker, Regional Director, Omaha, arrived October 2 and departed on the 6th. W. Leon Evans, Assistant Superintendent, Big Bend National Park, in October 2, out 7. Harold J. Estey, District Park Ranger, Glacier, in October 8, out 12. Samuel P. Shaw, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., and John Leete, Fish and Wildlife Service, Billings, in October 5 to discuss Wetlands in

Wyoming for Missouri River Basin studies. Warren J. Oliver, Engineer, Region Two, who arrived June 16 to serve as resident engineer on construction of sewer and water project at Canyon, and John A. Schmid, Highway Maintenance Engineer, Region Two, who arrived August 8 on assignment as project engineer on Canyon campground roads, left October 11 for Omaha. Fred Bussey, Chief Clerk, Glacier, arrived October 12 to accompany Yellowstone representatives to Chief Clerks Conference at Omaha, spent some time on his return to Glacier the 27th discussing fiscal matters and departed the 28th. Paul McG. Miller, Chief Engineer, National Park Service, and Richard T. Montgomery, Park Engineer, Glacier, in October 12 on return from Design and Construction Conference at Zion, conferred on Yellowstone projects and problems, and out 13th. William A. Dunn, Superintendent, U. S. Fishery Station, Yellowstone Lake, who spent the entire summer in the Lake area, departed October 13. Howard Mattsson, Postal Inspector, Cheyenne, in October 15. Keith P. Neilson, Finance Officer, NPS, Washington, in West October 26 to go over accounting matters affecting the park; expects depart November 3. John Calhoun and Douglas Cameron, GAO Auditors, Portland, in October 28 en route to Helena to audit books of Hamilton Stores, Inc.

Publicity. The Associated Press was furnished information by telephone October 30 on the death of George R. Anderson, employee of Peter Kiewit Sons' Company, due to a falling tree.

A total of 8,000 Yellowstone broadsides for 1953 remained on hand at the close of October.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Park Engineer Wohlbrandt and Resident Landscape Architect Mattson were away from the park the earlier part of the month in attendance at the Design and Construction Conference at Zion National Park, returning the 9th and 10th, respectively. Assistant Park Engineers Thuring and Cummings spent their time in supervising the construction projects at Lake, Canyon and Old Faithful.

Chief Engineer Paul McG. Miller from the Washington Office and Park Engineer Richard T. Montgomery from Glacier were in the park October 12 and 13 on return from the Design and Construction Conference, going over construction projects at Lake and Canyon and projects proposed for the 1955 fiscal year and discussing other problems.

The proposed West Entrance widening for new checking and information stations was reviewed on the ground October 27 by Messrs. Rogers, Wohlbrandt, Mattson and Thuring and the manner in which it had been laid out and staked appeared to be satisfactory and the project is to be started November 2.

Studies are being prepared on the proposed West Entrance Station and they will be forwarded to the Regional Office after further review by the park staff.

The Inspiration Point observation platform proposed project was reviewed on the ground by Messrs. Rogers, Hamilton, Mattson, Wohlbrandt and Condon and sketch plans will be prepared this winter.

Maintenance. October was a good month for maintenance but a shortage of labor curtailed some operations. Ditches were cleaned and shoulders built up on the Canyon to Tower Fall, Lake Butte, and Tower Fall to Soda Butte sections. Guard rail crews placed 600 feet of treated timber guard rail and 2,400 feet of guide post during the month. Work on the parking area in front of Hamilton's Lower Store at Old Faithful is progressing slowly. All snow fences and snow stakes are in place and all buildings braced. Light snow has caused some snow-plowing, but at the end of the month all park roads were open. The Red Lodge to Cooke approach road was closed by snow on October 21 and will remain closed for the season. At the end of the month, road crews were located at Lake, Mammoth and Old Faithful.

Construction. Project 1F3, G4 at Canyon, bituminous surfacing of parking areas and connecting roads, under contract to Strong Company of Springville, Utah, has been closed down and is approximately 77% complete. Surface chip sealing, top soil placing and old road obliteration remain to be done.

Canyon Campground Roads, Studer Construction Company of Billings, contractor, project is about 40% complete and has been closed down for the season. Clearing is complete, grading about 95% complete and a small amount of base course surfacing has been placed.

The water and sewer project in the Canyon campground area under construction by Cop Construction Company of Billings was closed down October 24 and is 99% complete with final inspection to be made in early November.

Project 12-A, Norris-Canyon Cutoff, Grading and Surfacing 4.075 miles at east end, under contract to Peter Kiewit Sons' Company of Sheridan, Wyoming, about 1% complete with about 15% of clearing done and probable date of completion October 1954.

Other active projects during the month were: Walks in Thermal Areas, Account 323.02, 95% complete, Roads and Walks, Fishing Bridge Cabin Area (portion), Account 323.04, 90% complete; Campground Roads and Walks, Old Faithful, Account 323.12, 99% complete; Roads and Walks, Lake Hotel Cabin Area (portion), Account 323.14, 95% complete; Reconstruction of Campground Roads and Removal of Stumps, Fishing Bridge, Account 323.17, 65% complete, all stumps having been removed and piled and hauling of stumps to dump underway; Pump House for Sewage System, Lake, Account 331.04, 90% complete; Comfort Stations (2), Old Faithful Campground, Account 331.14, 10% complete, one building framed and other underway; Sewer System for Campground, Old Faithful, Account 332.06, 95% complete; Water Line Extension, Hotel Cottage

Area, Lake, Account 332.07, 90% complete; Sewer Line Extension, Hotel Cottage Area, Lake, Account 332.08 90% complete; Main Sewer System, Lake, Account 332.16, 35% complete and underdrain in place; Utilities, Tables, Fireplaces and Comfort Stations, Old Faithful Campground, Account 333.02, 96% complete and foundation for one station poured.

Complaints. Four letters of complaint were received during the month, as follows: (1) uncleanliness of cabins and wash rooms, (2) uncleanliness of cabins at Lake and earlier closing down of modern cottages there, (3) uncleanliness of cabins and discourtesy and indifference of cabin and cafeteria employees, and (4) lack of modern conveniences and heat at Lake Lodge cabins.

Concessioners. The Yellowstone Park Company accounting office was moved from Mammoth to Helena on October 1 and their other offices moved to Gardiner on October 5. The Hamilton Store at Lake was closed October 13, the Old Faithful tourist cabins, cafeteria and repair shop October 15 with the exception of a few cabins to take care of the overflow from the Hamilton Lower Store at Old Faithful which took over the furnishing of visitor lodging and meals until its closing October 30. The only facilities to remain open are the general store and service station at Mammoth which will be kept open all winter to accommodate local residents.

Howard Brown, Manager, Hotel Division, Yellowstone Park Company, and Mrs. Brown departed October 6 and R. H. Buck, Assistant Manager of that division, on October 20 for their winter headquarters at La Jolla, California.

J. E. Haynes, President of Haynes Inc., and Mrs. Haynes moved to their winter headquarters at Bozeman, Montana, on October 17.

Trevor Povah, Vice-President, Hamilton Stores, Inc., and family, and Gar Helppie, Manager, and Lee Yeager, Auditor of that company, departed October 30 for Santa Monica, California, for the winter.

The construction work on the Hamilton Stores, Inc. West Thumb Store additions has been closed down as of the end of the month. Part of the new housing will be ready for employee occupancy next spring, but the entire kitchen installation needs to be made before the dining room can be used. The old store portion was opened up in the front but the portion between the two old wings was not enclosed. No work was started on the store addition, the plans for which were submitted October 13. Propane plans for this store were not approved by the Washington Office and many items will need to be cleared up during the winter regarding construction details for the propane installation.

There is a proposal to install propane heating for the Hamilton Mammoth Store by using the present Yellowstone Park Company tanks and metering the gas to the store, but this proposal has not been submitted in any other than verbal form and due to the complications of the installation it will require detailed plans.

Work has continued on the following Yellowstone Park Company projects: steam lines completed to Old Faithful Lodge cabins, cafeteria and cabin office; Old Faithful Lodge cabins with bath should be in use in spring; cabin for carpenter and dope house at Old Faithful Lodge well underway; and work on the boat docks at Lake which should be usable in the spring.

The bedroom addition at the Haynes Inc. Roosevelt Lodge Shop is complete.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. The regular Sunday School services of the community were held each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the Yellowstone National Park Chapel. The Chapel will be used alternately with the community of Gardiner for religious services conducted by members of the Park County Ministerial Association. These services will begin in November.

Interpretive Services. Chief Park Naturalist Condon presented a talk on the geysers and thermal phenomena of Yellowstone to the Absaroka Conservation Committee group on the evening of the 3rd. On the 13th he went to Bozeman where he presented a talk to the Bozeman Garden Club. There were about 150 people present and as illustrative material the motion picture "Geyserland" was used.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. There were five new specimen cases for museum storage received on the 16th. These add materially to the storage space available at the headquarters museum. The big problem now is to find a place to put them since the existing space is badly crowded and no additional room seems to be available.

The shutters were placed on the field exhibits at Willow Park where the moose exhibit occurs, at Obsidian Cliff, in the Norris Museum foyer and in the Firehole Canyon on October 23.

Research and Observation. Mr. David Howcroft of Newport Beach, California, was in the Chief Park Naturalist's office on November 1 and at that time discussed with him historical data on the park. Mr. Howcroft was very much interested in P. W. Norris for he had spent the early years of his life in a house at Norris, Michigan, which had been the large house of P. W. Norris.

Margaret Altmann, who has been studying the social behavior of elk, and Mr. James Upsahl were in the headquarters museum on the

2nd and 3rd using the Yellowstone Park library. Two Fish and Wildlife Service biologists were in the Chief Park Naturalist's office on the 5th seeking information on duck nesting areas of the park.

On the 13th Biologist Kittams located a trumpeter swan which had been severely injured and was on a lake in the vicinity of Junction Butte. Park Naturalist Condon and Mr. Kittams observed the bird on what it known as "Lake LaCombe" and later when it went out onto the shore they had little difficulty in capturing it. Its right wing was badly broken and mangled and its left wing somewhat injured. The bird died and was taken to Montana State College at Bozeman for a Zoology Department specimen. It is thought a coyote might have been responsible for the injuries which resulted in the swan's death. Further information may be received from the College as to the injuries.

The bison it seems were much less common in the Lower Geyser Basin area, along the roads at least, during the month of October and especially so toward the end of the month in contrast to the large numbers that were seen often during the month of September.

Two coyotes have taken up roadside begging this fall, one in the vicinity of Old Faithful, usually seen around the Castle or Daisy Geysers parking areas and another has been commonly seen in the vicinity of Madison Junction. Both of these animals have been accepting food from the hands of park visitors and some pictures were made of the animal at Old Faithful by members of the Naturalist staff.

The Great Fountain Geyser was observed in eruption on the 14th and at this time the overflow time was carefully observed. The geyser overflowed for an interval of 53 minutes from the time water started flowing over the terrace from the crater until the geyser erupted.

On the 16th Chief Park Naturalist Condon spent considerable time in the Mud Volcano area and made observations of the Black Dragon's Cauldron. The activity at this feature has changed significantly from that which was prevalent during the month of September. On the 16th there was a pronounced amount of activity along a crack or fissure which was about 50 feet in length, with fountains of black fluid mud being thrown up into the air as much as 25 feet in height from several vents along this fissure. The mud of the Black Dragon's Cauldron's crater is much more fluid than it was during September and August and is not being thrown to near the height by the issuing steam and gas. The level of "Sour Lake," the rather large green colored lake adjacent to the Black Dragon's Cauldron, has been lowered about 38 inches since July with the mud level in the Black Dragon's Cauldron being about 18 inches lower still than the water level of the "Sour Lake." Evidence indicates that there is a subterranean leakage of

water, probably from the "Sour Lake" into Black Dragon's Cauldron and that this is the source of water which has made the mud more fluid. If the water level continues to fall as rapidly as it has in the "Sour Lake" area during the winter months this lake will no longer exist next spring.

Two starlings were observed on the 23rd in the residential area below the hill at Mammoth and two large flocks of these birds were seen on the 28th below Yankee Jim Canyon in Paradise Valley.

Natural History Association. Mrs. Alice Quist continued her employment as clerk of the Association and worked the major part of the month of October.

The annual meeting of the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association was held in the Chief Park Naturalist's office on October 9. The year's business of the Association was reviewed and reports were submitted to the Board of Directors. Mr. Jack E. Haynes resigned as treasurer of the Association and Mrs. Alice Quist was elected to that position. The Board of Directors of the Association for the coming year will be composed of Edmund B. Rogers, Warren F. Hamilton, Otto M. Brown, James W. Brown, W. Verde Watson, Alice Quist, William G. Proper, Jack E. Haynes, Joseph Joffe, Francis Elmore and David de L. Condon. Mr. James Brown was elected Chairman of the Board for the 1954 year. Reports covering the activities of the Association for the 1953 year were submitted to the Superintendent, Director of the National Park Service and the Regional Director.

The copy for the November-December issue of Yellowstone Nature Notes was completed and this issue will be placed in the mails early in November.

In-Service Training. The Yellowstone Weekly News was issued each Thursday during the month to keep employees, concessioners and others currently informed of park happenings.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. As it was last year, weather was favorable to travel and 31,049 visitors registered or were counted. This compares with 31,255 during October 1952, or a slight decrease.

The Northeast Entrance-Red Lodge Road was closed for awhile on the 2nd and finally closed for the winter on the 21st.

Hamilton Stores remained open at Old Faithful to provide accommodations until the 30th.

Special Visitors. Congressman Wesley A. D'Ewart of Montana arrived October 3 and presided over the Absaroka Conservation Committee meeting on the 4th, departing the same day.

Yellowstone

Dr. J. Allan Norton, author, travel photographer and lecturer, of Flint, Michigan, who prepared film "Wyoming's Pressure-Cooker Country" here in 1952, arrived October 8 for more pictures and departed on the 13th.

A group of Middle Eastern Governmental Representatives on what was known as the Near East Leader Training Tour visited the park October 10, making the lower loop, entering and leaving via Cody. A number of the group traveled in native costume.

Ranger Service. Preparations for winter are almost complete with snowshoe cabins provisioned and most repair work accomplished. As much annual leave as possible was taken consistent with the work program. Arrangements were made for the Absaroka Conservation Committee Meeting on the 4th. Chief Ranger Brown made a number of inspection trips including the Lamar Unit on the 7th, Slough Creek on the 8th, and loop stations on the 22nd and 24th. Rangers Reynolds and Hackett were assigned to the Upper Astringent Creek Fire from the 14th to the 18th. Other activities included handling of routine correspondence and reports, investigation of several accidents, preparation of court cases and assisting and supplying visitors with information. Traffic patrols were made as time permitted. District Ranger Hart has been assisting on Quarters Rental Work.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. RANGE. According to observations by Biologist Kittams the northern winter ranges are free of snow as is most of the summer range. Forage on the Yellowstone range is exceedingly dry; that on the Gallatin was somewhat green in early October. The range situation was reviewed for the Absaroka Conservation Committee. Some portions of the Firehole range in the Fountain Flat area have been grazed at least moderately already. Bison sign are prevalent over the bottoms and shallow slopes, whereas only elk sign was found on the few steep slopes. First priority has been given to rebuilding several of the fences around study plots. Eight have already been completed on funds provided from the Contingency Reserve of Region Two. Data from 12 of the photo plots charted in 1949 and 1952 have been analyzed and will be included in the annual range report. Nearly all the report is in rough draft now.

ELK REDUCTION. A number of requests have been received from Indian Agencies for refrigerator shipments of elk carcasses but none have indicated they can send butchers and trucks to the park to secure surplus elk. We cannot make rail shipments and it was necessary to so inform the applicants.

BUFFALO REDUCTION. One definite request for 42 buffalo carcasses was received from the Standing Rock Sioux tribe. Other agencies are evidently having difficulty in securing butchers and trucks.

BEARS. One bear injury report and two dead bear reports were received during October. Totals for 1953 season are: Bear Damages 63, Bear Injuries 42 and Dead Bear Reports 20.

FISH. The fishing season in the park closed on October 15.

Forest Fire Protection. One forest fire was reported during October. This was a Class B lightning fire and as near as can be determined it originated on September 16, holding over until it was discovered on October 12. When controlled it was 2.3 acres in size. There have now been a total of 81 reportable fires this season, 59 of which were caused by lightning and 22 were man-caused.

Trails. Assistant Chief Ranger McComas and District Ranger Gilbert made an inspection trip over the trails in the Heart Lake-Harebell-Snake River area on October 6-8. All trails were found in a satisfactory condition and showed that good maintenance had been accomplished.

Signs. Preparations are being made to carry on the sign making program which was started last winter. All district supervisors have been instructed to submit a list of their sign needs for next season. The roof on the old pistol range building has been repaired and the front part will again be used as a sign shop. A change in allotment has been requested to provide funds for the purchase of a new chain saw and several pieces of equipment to be used in the sign shop.

Wood Utilization. A total of 170 cords of wood was cut to stove wood lengths and delivered to quarters and woodsheds. The wood was cut from salvaged logs at the following locations: 116 cords at Canyon development area, 54 cords at Old Faithful sewage disposal area, 4 cords at Lake Ranger Station and 5 cords at West Yellowstone Ranger Station.

Blister Rust Control. The Blister Rust Control display at Dunraven Pass was removed for the winter and placed in storage at Canyon. Snow braces were placed in the B.R.C. buildings at Canyon. All sleeping bag covers and sheets were laundered and the sleeping bags will be reassembled this winter so that the crew members can be furnished clean, fresh sleeping bags when they report for work next spring.

Ranch Operations. Approximately 40 acres of meadow has been plowed, disced and partially leveled at the Lamar Unit in preparation for reseeding the meadow grass next spring. There remains some discing and leveling to be done before the meadow is ready for seeding. Supplies of hay and grain have been delivered to outlying ranger stations for use next spring. Most of the horses have been moved to

the Lamar Unit for the winter. Young horses are being gentled and trained for next summer's use. A new manure spreader has been purchased and delivered to the Lamar Unit.

Accidents and Public Safety. A total of seven motor vehicle accidents were reported during the month: three Class "A", three Class "B", and one Class "Minor". Three of the collisions involved visitors; four involved concessioner or Government employees. No serious injuries were sustained but considerable property damage was incurred to the 10 vehicles involved.

George R. Anderson, age 36, employed by Peter Kiewit Sons' Company, was killed on the clearing job at Canyon on the 30th by a falling tree.

Law Enforcement. Only three law enforcement cases were tried before the U. S. Commissioner: one case involved an employee fishing in closed waters; another concerned three visitors in the same type of offense; and the other excess speed.

The F.B.I. advised this office that two youths suspected and reported for committing grand theft in the park last June were recently arrested near Salt Lake City and have been bound over to the U. S. District Court at Cheyenne. F.B.I. Agent Fred Bassett visited the office on business on the 13th and 28th. Montana Highway Patrolman Norris Lean was with him on the first visit.

Bruce Krebs, age 21, concessioner employee, was arrested at Mammoth following a request by the F.B.I. who held a warrant for him for reportedly deserting from the Navy. Subsequently, he escaped while in custody of a park ranger, but was captured within three hours by a Montana State Deputy Sheriff near Bozeman.

Judge Wayne T. Hackett, U. S. Commissioner, Rocky Mountain National Park, visited on the 5th. He is interested in the possibilities of bond forfeitures or collections of fines without violator coming before the U. S. Commissioner.

Marriages. Park Ranger John F. Rohm and Mary F. Blanchard of Carlsbad, New Mexico, former employee of Yellowstone Park Company reservations office, were married October 20 at Carlsbad.

Deaths. Ned J. Burns, Chief of the Museum Branch of Natural History Division, National Park Service, passed away October 12. Mr. Burns has done considerable work in connection with Yellowstone museums and visited the park the latter part of July with his wife and daughter.

Judge I. W. Choate, father of Mrs. Thomas K. Garry, died October 23 in Helena after a lingering illness. He was former Associate Justice of Montana Supreme Court. The Garrys attended his funeral at Helena on October 26.

Mrs. Delia Hopkins of Milford, New Hampshire, mother of Mrs. Helen B. Tracy, Clerk-Stenographer, passed away October 23 at Boston, Massachusetts, following an operation. Mrs. Tracy left immediately by plane and was present for the funeral held October 26 at Milford.

George R. Anderson, 36, of St. Paul, Minnesota, employee of Peter Kiewit Sons' Company, contractor on Norris-Canyon road project, was killed by a falling tree while engaged in clearing operation on October 30. His body was taken to Franzen Mortuary pending further arrangements.

Personnel. Position No. 144, formerly Clerk, GS-4, in the Personnel Section and now vacant, was established as Clerk-Stenographer, GS-4, effective October 9.

Notice was received October 19 that pursuant to Section 1302 of the Third Supplemental Appropriation Act, 1952, the following Indefinite Promotions were made Permanent: Ernest R. I. Anderson, Administrative Officer, GS-11; Otto M. Brown, Supervisory Park Ranger (Chief Park Ranger), GS-11; and Joseph Joffe, Administrative Assistant, GS-10, effective September 4, 1953; and Thomas K. Garry and Harold O. Edwards, Supervisory Park Rangers (Assistant Chief Park Ranger), GS-9, effective October 13, 1953.

Carl J. Gruener, Park Ranger, GS-5, departed October 19 for Port Arthur, Texas, by Promotion (Indefinite) and Change of Headquarters to U. S. Game Management Agent, GS-7, with the Fish and Wildlife Service, effective at 2:00 p.m. on that date.

Merle E. Stitt entered on duty October 25 as Park Ranger, GS-5 by Reassignment and Change of Headquarters from a similar position at Grand Teton National Park.

The Temporary Appointment of Mrs. Alice B. Murphy as Clerk-Stenographer, GS-4 in the Chief Ranger's Office was extended (NTE 11-13-53) October 14 and terminated at the close of October 23 on arrival of the incumbent to the position. She was appointed as seasonal Clerk-Stenographer, GS-3 effective October 26.

Mrs. Bessie B. Schmitt arrived October 23 to enter on duty by Indefinite Appointment as Clerk-Stenographer, GS-4 in the Chief Ranger's Office effective October 26.

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George J. Tracy, seasonal Fire Control Aid (Dispatcher), IGS-5, was terminated October 16, 1953.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the National Federation of Federal Employees was held in the Canteen October 5.

The Mammoth Library annual meeting was held October 20 in the community library room and the following were elected Board Members for a two-year term: Mrs. James Brown, Mrs. Francis Elmore, and Mrs. Harold Edwards. Mrs. Melvin Thuring, Mrs. Stanley McComas and Mrs. Ruben Hart are holdovers for a second year from last year's election. The offices to be held by the various Board Members will be determined at the board meeting November 3.

Edmund B. Rogers
Superintendent

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